

WE CLAIM:

1. An apparatus for reading data encoded in a fault tolerant digital form printed in invisible ink on a surface of a card said surface bearing an image said apparatus comprising:
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- a) scanning means for scanning in said encoded fault tolerant digital form of said data on said surface;
 - b) means for processing said scanned data and for decoding said data into a secondary digital format;
 - 10 c) means for outputting said secondary digital format to an output device with which said secondary digital format is usable;
 - d) said output device presenting said data in a human readable form.
2. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said data is encoded in a fault tolerant digital form using a Reed-Solomon process and said means for processing and decoding said data includes means for processing said Reed-Solomon process.
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3. An apparatus is claimed in claim 2 wherein said output device includes a display device.
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4. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said invisible ink is an infra-red absorbing ink with negligible absorption in the visible spectrum